

How Long Oh Lord (Psalms 13:1-6)

I. The Hurting Feelings From Trial

- A. Frail Feelings
- B. Foolish Feelings
- C. Forsaken Feelings
- D. Futile Feelings

II. The Haunting Fears From Trouble

- A. A Fearful Address
- B. A Fearful Anxiety
- C. A Fearful Advancement

III. The Hope Found From Trusting

- A. The Basis Of Hope
- B. The Benefit Of Hope
- C. The Blessing Of Hope
- D. The Bounty Of Hope

How Long Oh Lord Ps 13:1-6

When we lived in Wildwood, Ga, we lived right near the foot hills of Lookout Mtn which was a pretty densely wooded

forest. I've heard all kinds of sounds come out of these woods. One night I heard a Mtn Lion scream and it made the hair stand up on the back of my neck. I have also heard the coyotes that roam these hills howl at various times. One night I was in bed when the train came through and sounded the horn. A pack of these coyotes must have been under my window, cause they let off a blood

curdling howl that made me jump square out of the bed. Evidently that horn hurts their ears and causes them to howl in pain. Reason I tell you this is that in Ps 13 David is howling in pain at God. Note the four How longs in vs 1+2. Spurgeon calls it the howling psalm. My question to you today is Have you ever howled at God in pain?

Chances are that if you have lived any length of time you have How longed at God. I want us to follow David through his howling fit and

1. The Hurting Feelings From Trial (vs 1-2)

The psalms are such a benefit to the believer because David is so Gut level honest with the Lord. Every one of us has been in a place

where David was here, howling or howling the

A. Frail Feelings - in verses 1+2 we see a broken man. Don't forget about where we are talking about here. The Giant slays the one that jerks lions + bears around his head. The mighty warrior huddled up in a corner crying his eyes out. Trials show us our

B. Foolish Feelings - Oh how often to trials, cause us to ask God some foolish things. The word forget = misplace. Can an all knowing God forget anything? VS 2a. There's a foolish thing to do. Like you have the answer to your own trial. World says = answer lies within. Most of time I am my own ^{problem} _{myself}

C. Forsaken Feelings - VS 1b When we go through trial we feel like God has forsaken us. God seems a million miles away from us. ³ Job 13:24. In the midst of trial + difficulty it seems as though God has abandoned us. That he is no longer looking in my direction.

D. Futile Feelings - VS 3 having sorrow in my heart... enemy exalted. I'm crying my eyes out day after day and the enemy is claiming the victory. It's just all over. It is as though in the heart of David he has thrown up his hands and says what's the use!

II. The Haunting Fears from Trouble VS 3-4

It's not long before hurting feelings turn into haunting fears. When we feel as though the Lord has forsaken us then we feel

Intro: ...howling fit and draw out help for our howling moments of life.

- 1) ...how longing the Lord. David is pouring out His heart fillings to the Lord. I wrote down in my Bible right here,

"Just tell Him. It's alright to tell Him you are hurting!"

- 2) ...Trial show us our own frailty. I don't care who you are or how close to God you think you are, there are things that can come into our life that can make the mighty man frail as a kitten.

- 3) Job 13:24 Wherefore hidest thou thy face, and holdest me for thine enemy?

Intro: ...howling fit and draw out help for our howling
moments of life.

1) ...how longing the Lord, David is pouring out his heart
things to the Lord. I wrote down in my Bible right here,

1) 1 Samuel 17:45 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou
comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a
shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of
hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast
defied.

or how close to God you think you are. If things
that can come into our life that can make the mighty man
fall as a kitten.

3) Job 13-24 Wherefore hideest thou thy face, and holdest
me for thine enemy?

vulnerable which gives rise to our fears.

A. A Fearful Address ^{vs 3a} - he is continuing in prayer, addressing God. It's as though he is crying out in desperation to get God's attention. Oh how I have been there "God are you listening at all?" Notice what he calls the lord - Jehovah Elahene - you can't call on a higher name than ¹ the Giant. He is crying out to the Lord in the midst ^{offensive} of the battle.

B. A Fearful Anxiety ^{vs 3b} - He is afraid God is just going to leave him in the dark. He is asking God shed some light on my situation. Help me understand this troubling situation. vs 3b lest I sleep... I don't believe David is

referring to suicide, but he is saying, I will never survive this trouble, w/o you. This pressure is killing me and you are my only deliverer.

C. A Fearful Advancement ^{4a} - The enemy is prevailing they are on the advance! The enemy is on the verge of saying "It's over he is defeated." He is saying I am being overtaken by the enemy. 4b This enemy is jumping up and down celebrating the fact that I am losing ground. "I am moved" I'm on the retreat, I am faltering and being overrun.

III. The Hope Found from Trusting vs 5-6

You see something drastically changes between vs. 4+5. Between vs 4+5 there must have been some answer to prayer in the midst of

Prayer. David must have prayed thru Night + Day

A. The Basis of Hope - But I have trusted His faith, hope, and comfort grew as he prayed. His focus changed from his crisis to his King and instead of complaining he started claiming. Instead of Baulking at God he began believing God. He went from praying to persuasion. Persuaded of God's

B. The Benefit of Hope - My heart is going to rejoice. = to spin around! I am going to be glad in the midst of my trouble because in your mercy you have saved me and in your mercy you will continue to save. The benefit of Trusting God is an overflowing

C. The Blessing of Hope - It's not before a spinning heart is going to effect your mouth. We are a singing people. Carey taught me that it is a good thing to hear a child sing to themselves because it is a mark of their happiness. Singing and the melody of the heart is the mark of

D. The Bounty of Hope - Trusting in the gracious and merciful past dealing w God in present trouble + trial, will cause us to begin to recount the bounty of God's goodness toward us. When God has filled my basket in the past, and there is no reason to

IV Closing The Key to Ps 13 is to understand what happened between vs 4 + 5. David's situation has not changed, his enemy has not changed. God never said one word, David's condition hasn't changed

- 1) ...Persuaded of God's mercy. The word mercy here is that Hebrew word often translated "loving-kindness." Which is the mercy of God combined with the favor and love of God all rolled into one word. He said "I have trusted..." In the past Lord you have been merciful to me. In the past the Lord had every right to forget about David, to hide His face from David, to never give David any counsel, he could have never given David joy, or victory, or understanding. Yet in the past God has been merciful, gracious and loving and on this basis, David said I'm gonna trust God!
- 2) ...overflowing heart of joy unspeakable and full of glory in a God that saves! We used to sing a song at Temple called "He never failed me yet!" I used to wonder, "Why the yet? Why not just 'He never failed me'?" Well in the midst of apprehension, we can trust that what God did in the past he will continue to do into the future!
- 3) ...is the mark of a happy and blessed child of God!
- 4) ...no reason to believe, that he will not continue to be bountiful toward me in present trial and in future trouble.
- 5) ...condition hasn't changed. Then what happened. Somewhere between vs. 4 and 5 David realized that God hasn't changed. God's just as merciful and gracious and loving as he's always been, therefore David trusted God and found hope in his difficulty.

